



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

# Protecting Harpers Ferry

One of the Nation's Ten Most Endangered  
Civil War Battlefields





# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



## Common Vision for Preservation

For 70—years, congressional, state, and local leaders, groups, and individuals have shared a common vision for Harpers Ferry—to create a national park that today is one of West Virginia's finest treasures.

*Harpers Ferry National Historical Park*

[nps.gov/hafe](https://nps.gov/hafe)

Harpers Ferry—a most endangered battlefield





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*Shenandoah River from Murphy Farm*

## **Protecting Scenic Views**

This vision recently saved the Murphy Farm and forged passage of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Revision Act of 2004, affording greater protection of School House Ridge Battlefield and the park's skyline.



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## The Journal

Serving the Eastern Counties of West Virginia

### Harpers Ferry among endangered battlefields

■ The site is one of the 10 most threatened battlefields according to a recent study.

By BEN EVANS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — Plans for a casino just outside Gettysburg, Pa., were shut down last year, but the site of the Civil War's bloodiest battle still is threatened by rapidly spreading home construction according to a preservation group's annual inventory of endangered battlefields.

So is a battleground outside Harpers Ferry which was added to the list this year after a developer dug 45-foot wide trenches for water and sewer line that would serve thousands of new homes.

A site in Alabama's Mobile Bay is suffering from neglect and a lack of state funding, and vast tracts of land stretching from Virginia to Pennsylvania are at risk from a planned major power line, the Civil War Preservation Trust said.

"Tens of thousands of valiant young Americans still lie entombed in those fields," Charlie Wilson, a former Texas congressman who backed federal spending on Civil War land preservation, said.

## MORNING

134th Year No. 73

Hagerstown, Md. Wednesday

### Harpers Ferry on list of most endangered battlefields

HARPERS FERRY, W.VA.

■ The Civil War Preservation Trust blames pressure by developers.

By DAVE McMILLION  
charlestown@herald-mail.com

Civil War battlefields at Harpers Ferry were listed among the most endangered in the country Tuesday and preservation experts pointed to pressure by developers in the announcement.

In a press conference in Washington, D.C., the Civil War Preservation Trust said a group of developers laid about 2,000 feet of water and sewer lines across Harpers Ferry National Historical Park last August and left "nearly two acres of taxpayer-owned hallowed ground seriously compromised."

### List: Harpers

Continued from A1

The National Parks Conservation Association, which issued a list of the 10 most endangered battlefields in the country, said a \$200 million office space and hotel project being proposed on private land near the park would allow incompatible, intensive development in the area and undermine millions of dollars in federal, state and private investments made to preserve the park.

"For decades, leaders from West Virginia and across the country have worked together to protect America's Civil War, civil rights, and industrial history at Harpers Ferry. As a result, nearly 3,745 acres of land is protected in a landscape of remarkable beauty," said Joy Oakes, senior regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association.

"But, Harpers Ferry (National Historical Park) is threatened today by an ill-advised proposal to develop approximately 640 acres of private land virtually surrounded by the park," Oakes said.

A Charles Town attorney representing developers who want to build the \$200 million office space and hotel project objected to statements that the proposal is not compatible with the Harpers Ferry area and said about 20 acres along the Shenandoah River is being set aside for public access to the river and boat ramps.

Harpers Ferry was included

## Old Standard LLC's development raises new concerns

The Civil War Preservation Trust on March 13, 2007 declared Harpers Ferry to be one of the ten most endangered battlefields due to *Old Standard's* development and annexation.

The National Park Conservation Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have also voiced their opposition.

Click here to read full article from [The Journal, March 14, 2007](#)

Click here to read full article from [The Morning Herald, March 14, 2007](#)





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## Development in core of national park

*Old Standard* development, in the core of the park's historic and scenic setting, threatens loss of a Civil War battlefield and desecration of the park's scenery.

*Protected park land in red, proposed development in green*



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## Spoiled Landscape

The park is installing hiking trails and outdoor exhibits throughout School House Ridge Battlefield. The southern end of Bolivar Heights will be covered by *Old Standard's* development. Views of the historic landscape and park scenery will be obliterated by the new construction ruining the view along the new trails.

*Graphic depiction of proposed development  
based on Old Standard LLC presentation  
3/16/2007*





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## Preserve Pristine Civil War Battlefield

General A.P. Hill's flanking maneuver on Bolivar Heights South brought about the largest surrender of Union troops during the Civil War.

In 1862, 39,000 troops were engaged on the battlefield of Harpers Ferry.

In the final hours, General AP Hill's flanking maneuver of 5,000 troops swept the southern end of Bolivar Heights, placing 3,000 troops and 20 cannons on the Murphy Farm, affecting the surrender of the Union forces.



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*Protected park land in red, proposed development in green*

## Top Ten Endangered Battlefield

Approximately 75% of the land *Old Standard* proposes to develop is in fact a pristine 1862 Civil War battlefield.

Approximately 25% of the land is a brownfields site requiring landscape remediation.





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## Economic Benefit of Preservation

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park generates up to \$32.7 million annually in the state and local economy.

Spoiling the park's history and beauty, with *Old Standard's* development dominating the landscape, will drive tourists away, harming the local and state economy. It will waste hundreds of millions of dollars already invested to preserve one of West Virginia's finest treasures.



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Charles Town Mayor Peggy Smith has it right—this proposed annexation is too far from Charles Town. The neighboring communities of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar are against the annexation. The NPS opposes this annexation and urges it not be adopted.

